The order provides that any company or firm or individual which purchases wheat beyond 10,000 tonnes during 2008-09 shall furnish a return to Secretary, Food of the State from where maximum quantity has been purchased, while a return for purchase of wheat beyond 25,000 tonnes is required to be furnished to the Central Government.

(v) Department of Consumer Affairs has extended upto 31st August, 2008 notification under the EC Act enabling State Government to impose stock limit on wheat.

(vi) Import of wheat on private account at Zero duty has been permitted till further orders.

(vii) In order to encourage wheat procurement in States like U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Bihar etc. Commission to Societies/sub-agents has been enhanced to 2.5% on the lines of the Arthiya Commission in Punjab and Haryana for RMS 2008-09.

Save Grain Campaign

1590. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRl LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

the genesis/objective of Save Grain Campaign (SGC) and its achievements in Rajasthan;

whether there is no SGC office in Rajasthan;

if so, the reasons therefor; and

the number of farmers trained under the SGC in Rajasthan during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) With a view to minimize farm level storage losses, Save Grain Campaign (SGC) was launched as a pilot scheme in 1965-66 and operated as a regular scheme since 1969-70. The main objective of the scheme is to disseminate the techniques of scientific storage of foodgrains to the farming community by training, demonstration and publicity in selected villages. The achievements of SGC office, Jaipur since inception in Rajasthan upto December, 2007 are as under:—

SI. No.	Item of work	Achievements
	No. of farmers trained in stipendiary training courses	12700
	No. of storage receptacles fumigated for insect control	48015
	No. of houses covered under domestic rat control	81523
	No. of prophylactic treatment given	98462
	No. of non-metallic storage structure constructed	5116
	No. of indigenous storage structure improved	20664
	No. of metal bins provided to the farmers	25566

(b) and (c) There is a SGC office in Rajasthan located at Jaipur. However, on the recommendations of Expenditure Reform Commission (ERC), all the Save Grain Campaign offices including Jaipur are being closed.

(d) The number of farmers trained under the SGC in Rajasthan during the last three years, year-wise, are as under:—

SI. No.	Item of Work	2005-06	2006-07	(upto 2007-08 December, 2007)
1.	Number of farmers trained in Stipendiary Training Courses	1850	1400	1050
2.	Number of farmers trained in non-Stipendiary Training Courses	2031	1526	1300
	TOTAL	3881	2926	2350

Delayed production of sugar

t l591. DR.MURLIMANOHARJOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that production of sugar in several States has been delayed by sugar mills despite the commencement of crushing season in the country;

if so, the names of these States and whether this is also a reason for decrease in sugar production in the country during sugar crushing year 2007-08;

if not, the reaction of Government therefor and whether sugarcane growers have also suffered loss due to delay in starting crushing of sugarcane; and

if so, the estimate of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKH1LESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The late crushing of sugarcane by sugar factories is reported to have taken place in the States of Bihar, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand during the current sugar season 2007-08. The sugar production in the country during the current sugar season may decline by about IS lac tonnes over the last sugar season. One of the factors for decline in sugar production can be late starting of crushing operations by sugar factories.

Foodgrains stock for PDS

1592. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

whether country would experience a tight position in foodgrains stock in the Central Pool for the public distribution system by April, 2009; and

if so, the details thereof?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.